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In January 2009, Governor Patrick signed the new Food Allergy Awareness Act effective October 1, 2010 in Massachusetts. The purpose of the Act is to enhance industry and consumer awareness of major food allergens, aiming to prevent unintended illness and/or death of the approximately 4% of the population whom have food allergies. All food establishments licensed under M.G.L. C 140 S 6 as an innholder or common victualler are required to comply with the Act. The following information will help in understanding the requirements which need your attention.

**Food Allergy Awareness Act Requirements:**

Food establishments that cook, prepare, or serve food intended for immediate consumption either on or off the premises shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) **Poster:** No later than October 1, 2010, such food establishments shall prominently display in the employee work area a poster approved by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health no smaller than 8.5 by 11 inches, relating to major food allergens. The posters will be available to download at [www.mass.gov/dph](http://www.mass.gov/dph) or industries may develop their own poster which must then be approved by Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The poster shall include the following information:

- (a) Major food allergens;
- (b) Health risks of food allergies;
- (c) Procedure to follow when a customer states that he or she has a food allergy; and
- (d) Emergency procedure to follow if a customer has an allergic reaction to a food.

(2) **Notice on printed menus and menu boards:** No later than October 1, 2010 such food establishments shall include on all printed menus and menu boards a clear and conspicuous notice requesting a customer to inform the server before placing an order, about the customer's allergy to a major food allergen. The notice shall state: *"Before placing your order, please inform your server if a person in your party has a food allergy."*

(3) **Food Allergen Awareness Training:** By February 1, 2011, such food establishments shall have on staff a certified food protection manager who has been issued a Massachusetts certificate of allergen awareness training by an allergen awareness training verification program recognized by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The certificate will be valid for 5 years. The video will be widely available at no cost, and food managers will be encouraged to use it to enhance food allergen awareness among all employees.

Enclosed please find the amendments to the 105 CMR590.000: State Sanitary Code Chapter X-Minimum Sanitation Standards for food establishments adopted on June 9, 2010.

If you have any questions, please contact the Amherst Health Department at 413-259-3077.